



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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September 18, 2008

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WW-0

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Dean D. Efstathiou 
Acting Director of Public Works

OFFICE OF WATER RECYCLING FISCAL YEAR 2007-08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is an update on the accomplishments of the Los Angeles County Office of Water Recycling (OWR) during the Fiscal Year 2007-08. On February 20, 2007, your Board approved forming the OWR within the Department of Public Works effective July 1, 2007. Your Board set a goal of doubling the amount of recycled water used annually within the County of Los Angeles by the year 2030, which would increase the amount of recycled water used to 320,000 acre-feet annually. In addition, your Board directed the OWR to implement the 37 recommendations contained within the report submitted by the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force, also approved by your Board on February 20, 2007. Attached is a table providing the status of each of the recommendations.

UTILIZING RECYCLED WATER AT COUNTY FACILITIES

The County of Los Angeles Recycled Water Task Force determined that the County should place greater emphasis on utilizing recycled water at its facilities. Many of the Task Force recommendations related to greater use of this resource by the County. The OWR focused on these recommendations during the last year in an effort to immediately increase the use of recycled water within the County. The OWR worked extensively with the Department of Parks and Recreation to identify facilities that are excellent candidates for converting to recycled water for irrigation. While these efforts have not yet resulted in converting a facility to recycled water, they provided a meaningful foundation for strategic planning efforts now underway within Parks and Recreation to convert all of their facilities.

INCREASING USE OF RECYCLED WATER AT SEAWATER BARRIERS

The OWR was instrumental in bringing four agencies together to explore the viability of increasing the use of recycled water for injection at the seawater barriers owned and operated by Public Works. The Dominguez Gap Barrier project currently utilizes a blend of recycled and imported water for injection. The City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power produces more recycled water at its Terminal Island Plant that could potentially be used for injection. The OWR facilitated an agreement among Public Works, the City of Los Angeles, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, and the West Basin Municipal Water District to evaluate whether the barrier could accommodate the increased use of recycled water in the injection operations. The resulting study determined that there are several improvements to the recycled water purveyors' treatment processes that must be built before recycled water deliveries could be increased to the seawater barriers.

DEVELOPING ANTELOPE VALLEY RECYCLED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Although recycled water is available in many parts of the County, there is no recycled water infrastructure serving the Antelope Valley. The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley (District), in cooperation with the City of Lancaster, the City of Palmdale, and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, have developed an alignment for a backbone distribution system for recycled water. The District and the City of Lancaster have jointly constructed an initial 24,200 feet of the 202,000 feet of pipeline envisioned for the Antelope Valley. The OWR assisted in developing the alignment for the backbone system, selecting the next segment for design and construction, and in obtaining tentative commitments from private stakeholders and public agencies totaling \$18 million needed to construct the next segment from various sources.

ADVOCATING FOR LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CHANGE

The OWR prepared position papers on several pieces of legislation introduced to the State Assembly and Senate related to recycled water. The OWR worked in concert with other Statewide entities also committed to increased use of recycled water to pursue more effective regulation of this resource.

The OWR has advocated for more streamlined regulation by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Two efforts by the SWRCB could have a profound effect on the ability to use recycled water. The SWRCB is presently developing a general permit for recycled water projects that allow recycled

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water users to more easily obtain State approval for recycled water projects. The OWR has participated in efforts to inform the SWRCB of the appropriate scope and level of detail that should be included in a general permit. Similarly, the OWR has participated in the SWRCB process to promulgate the Statewide Guidance for Recycled Water. This Guidance will provide direction to the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards on how to approach regulating recycled water at the local level. Both the general permit and the Statewide Guidance have the potential to ease the regulatory burden currently imposed on recycled water projects, which will enable project proponents to more efficiently implement these projects.

ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH RECYCLED WATER ENTITIES

The OWR has been effectively engaged in efforts to increase the use of recycled water within the County of Los Angeles during Fiscal Year 2007-08. The OWR has established excellent working relationships with the other local, regional, State, and national entities involved in recycled water issues. It has been working with various County departments to identify opportunities at County facilities for increasing the use of recycled water. These initial efforts should result in increased use of recycled water in the near term.

Attached is a list of accomplishments by the OWR during Fiscal Year 2007-08.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lari Sheehan)
County Counsel
Executive Office

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Office of Water Recycling

Status of Recycled Water Task Force Recommendations

Task Name	% Work Complete
Develop and Coordinate Internal County Recycled Water Program	
Establish the Office of Water Recycling	100%
Amend LACC Sec 2.18.015 naming Director lead on water recycling	100%
Instruct Parks and Recreation and Internal Services Department to irrigate all County green areas w/recycled water by 2020	100%
Waterworks District customers use recycled water for non-potable water, outdoor use	100%
Ordinance mandating recycled for green areas in unincorporated (LACC Section 7105.6.3)	75%
Develop public relations strategic plan	15%
Improve County review & approval of recycled projects	10%
Work w/County Energy and Environmental Team for recycled @ County facilities	40%
Develop a County recycled water master plan by June 2008	25%
Implement previously approved Board recycled water policies	50%
Train DPW staff on benefits of recycled water & County commitment	Ongoing
Liaise with Other Entities	
Become a member of WaterReuse Assoc.	100%
Become a member of LACRWAC	100%
Integrate County policies w/regional efforts	75%
Work w/BIA to develop dual plumb County ordinance	5%
Work with agencies that view recycled as waste to view as resource	10%
Work with agencies to increase groundwater recharge of recycled	35%
Implement recommendations from CA Water Plan Update 2006 & CA RWTF	0%
Task Force reconvene July for next 5 years	Ongoing
Task Force reconvene January for next 5 years	Ongoing
Develop and Disseminate Information	
Identify locations of existing recycled water projects through GIS	50%
Develop flow charts for recycled water project development	0%
Prepare guidance document for Title 22 dual plumb engineering reports	0%
Provide information on recycled water legislation*	Ongoing
Provide information on recycled water regulations*	Ongoing
Identify funding opportunities for recycled water*	Ongoing
Identify new/emerging recycled water technologies*	Ongoing
Provide information on recycled water project costs*	Ongoing
Provide information on recycled water research*	Ongoing
Provide technical documents and case studies on health impacts of recycled water*	Ongoing
Provide information on recycled water conferences & educational opportunities*	Ongoing
Advocate for Recycled Water	
Prepare 5-signature letter from BOS to Governor re: Caltrans use recycled	50%
Advocate that parties establish cost sharing agreements	0%
Rectify regulations inconsistent with recycled water as resource	Ongoing
Support or lead advocacy on recycled water issues	Ongoing
Advocate for government funding for recycled water projects	Ongoing
Advocate that regulatory agencies permit recycled water projects	15%

*Being performed in cooperation with the WaterReuse Association

OFFICE OF WATER RECYCLING
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

1. Established membership in the WaterReuse Association and the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Advisory Committee.
2. Prepared and submitted an ordinance adopted by the Board naming the Director of Public Works or his designee the lead County official on matters related to recycled water.
3. Participated in developing the Statewide Recycled Water Guidelines being prepared by the California State Water Resources Control Board.
4. Participated in developing the General Permit criteria for recycled water projects being prepared by the California State Water Resources Control Board.
5. Assisted the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts in drafting revised policies and procedures to require its customers to use recycled water for nonpotable, outdoor use.
6. Participated in efforts to develop recycled water supplies within the Antelope Valley area of Los Angeles County.
7. Prepared a draft five-signature letter from the Board to the Governor requesting that Caltrans be directed to prepare a master plan for converting its irrigation systems to recycled water.
8. Established effective working relationships with all recycled water providers within Los Angeles County.
9. Facilitated discussions between the Department of Parks and Recreation and recycled water purveyors to identify the Department of Parks and Recreation facilities in each purveyor's service area that could be served with recycled water.
10. Commenced development of the Countywide strategic plan for converting facilities to recycled water by assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation in the capital planning process for converting all of their facilities to recycled water for irrigation purposes by the year 2020. These facilities are priority facilities for conversion given their water usage and relative ease for conversion and represent the initial phase of the strategic plan.
11. Initiated development of a Countywide strategic plan in cooperation with the Chief Executive Office for converting all County facilities to recycled water for irrigation.
12. Facilitated an agreement between the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the West Basin Municipal Water District, the Water Replenishment District, and Public Works to conduct a study of Public Works' Modified Fouling Index standard for water delivered to the seawater barriers to potentially increase the amount of recycled water used for barrier injection.
13. Developed County positions on bills related to recycled water pending in the California Assembly or Senate, including Assembly Bill 1481, Senate Bill 201, and Assembly Bill 2270.